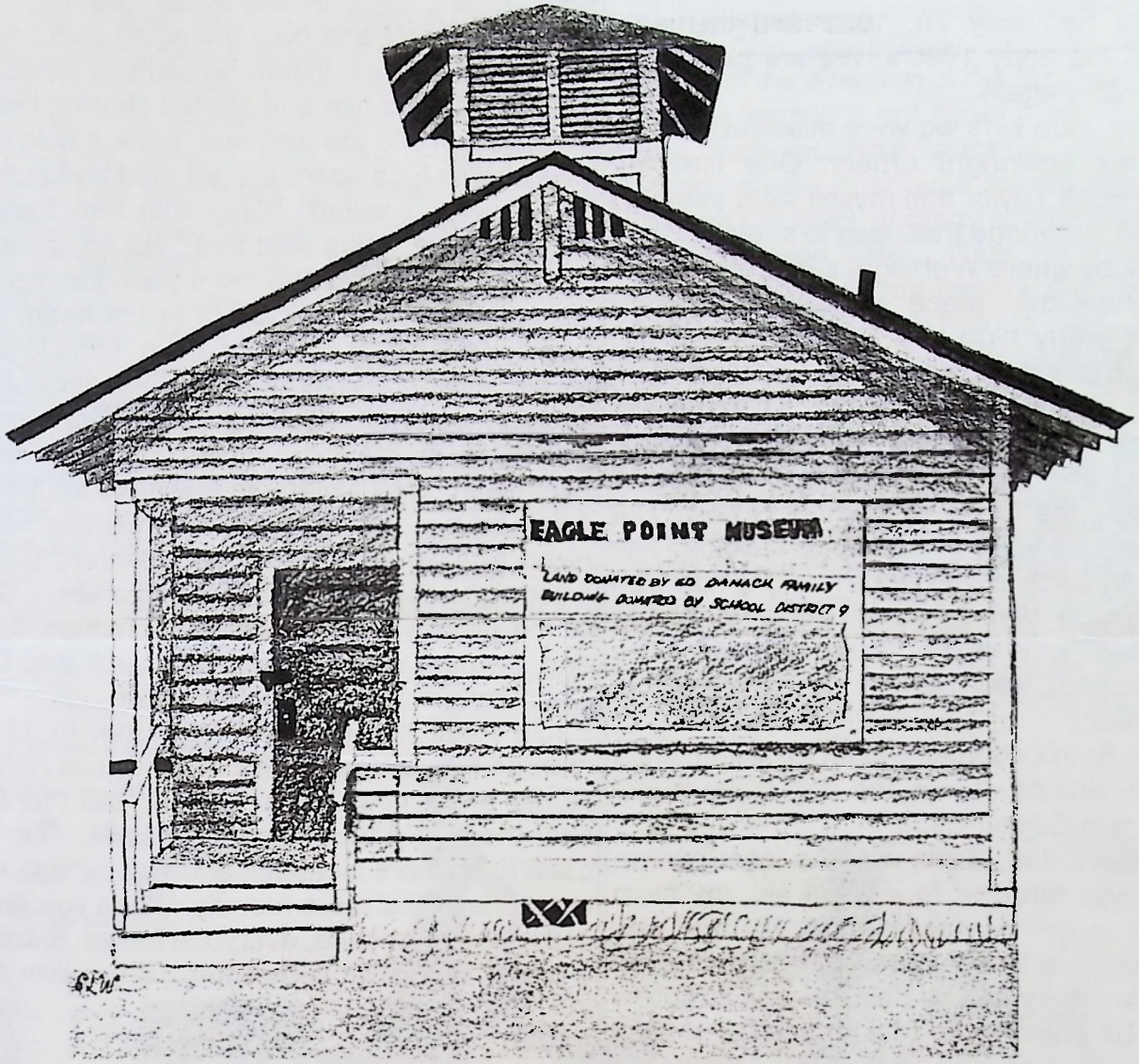
Eagle Point Historical Society & Museum
Newsletter May 2004



Drawing of the Eagle Point Museum

This is one illustration done as a school fund-raising project by the Eagle Point High School art class in 1980. It featured various buildings and historical sites around Eagle Point and had a 1980 calendar on the reverse side. The illustrations were all done by the art students. This drawing of the old Long Mountain School House, which later became our museum, was done by E. L.W.

Home Town Memories of Elmer Harnish

Eagle Point native Elmer Harnish passed away recently. Elmer grew up in Eagle Point and attended school here. I interviewed Elmer for our fall 1995 historical newsletter almost 10 years ago. His story gives a look at life in Eagle Point through the eyes of a young boy. Elmer was born February 20, 1920 and the story begins in the early 1930's. We are pleased to print his story again.

"When we were kids we were mischievous and sometimes downright ornery. One time Ed Dahack, Buck Taylor and myself were swinging on the old footbridge that used to stretch across the creek by where Wehinger's {near the Eagle Point Museum}, place is now. We were swinging pretty high when Sam Coy the city policeman arrested us and threw us in jail. Sam Coy was my uncle, but that didn't make any difference. The kids didn't like him because he was strict and blunt. The old jail was across from where the Eagle Restaurant is now. The library and jail were in the same building. The jail was in back of the library and it had iron doors. There was another swinging bridge about half way down South Shasta. The covered bridge was the only way to cross little Butte Creek.

My uncle Sam Coy later had an ice cream shop on South Shasta. It was the only place to get ice cream in Eagle Point.

Ed Dahack's dad, Ernie was the local barber. When I was three or four years old, my mom took me to get my first haircut. My hair was pretty long and I was scared. I started flopping around and they had to hold me and strap me down. I bit Ernie so he told my mother to take me home and never bring me back. I grew up a little and behaved better and always had Ernie cut my hair.

Ernie bought part of the Taylor ranch next to highway 62, I think about 1938. Taylor was my mother's name.

I palled around with Ed Dahack. We had three or four swimming holes in a Little Butte Creek. The best one was the Peace Swimming hole just below where I live now around the 300 block of South Royal. Another good place to swim was near the Butte Creek Bridge on Nick Young Road. We all swam nude no girls around that would have been real trouble.

With no television, we planned our own fun and sometimes we were pretty ornery. One Halloween we pushed all the privies over. That was Ed, me, Chester Smith and my brother Earl. Sam Coy came with his gun strapped on and made us put all the privies back up.

One time, I guess about 1938, Ed hit the teacher, Mr. Davies, right in the head. Ed had been skipping school and only attending about two or three days a week. When he came to school, Mr. Davies grabbed him and started shaking him. He pushed him into the wall and made a hole in the plaster with Ed's head. Ed got mad and punched Mr. Davies. I yelled, "Stay with him Dahack." Davies asked, "Who said that," but no one spoke up. Davies ran out of the room yelling for help. He was bleeding pretty good from his head. They had a real jury trial and everything. I had to testify as did some of the other kids. They decided that Davies shouldn't have grabbed Ed, and Ed promised to stay in school and act like a gentleman. They never had any more trouble. We didn't have a ball team here so Ed and I hitch-hiked to town to play with the Medford Craters. After high school Ed and I formed a team. Some of the players were the Stanley brothers, Chuck and Gorden, Gus Carlson and Jack and Dean Chamberlain. We were pretty good.

Eagle Point has been good to me. In 1948, I married Midge Nelson and we have two children, Roger and Linda. Eagle Point is still the same only the new people are aggressive. The town used to be more laid back and you used to know everyone. It was more friendly. When you worked in the hay or ranched, everyone fed us. It was like a picnic. When our barn burned down everybody in the valley helped. Now it's getting away from that."

Far right: Ed Dahack, Left: Elmer Harnish.
Photo by Barbara Hegne

Museum Tid Bits

Live Volunteers Needed

NOBODY died April 1, 2004 leaving a widow named **SOMEBODY ELSE** and three children named **DON'T ASK, WON'T DO IT AND NO**.

NOBODY had been a great volunteer for the Eagle Point Museum and he wanted his three children, **DON'T ASK, WON'T DO IT AND NO** to help, but they cried for their mother, **SOMEBODY ELSE.**

NOBODY was overworked and died of grief. **SOMEBODY ELSE** buried him because **DON'T ASK AND WON'T DO IT SAID NO.**

We need **SOMEBODY** to take **NOBODY'S** place and we will take **ANYBODY**. Please don't say **NO**. Call Barbara 826-4166. B.H.

More Names

Five new names have been added to our Logger's board: Sam and Lloyd Dodenhoff. Raymond B. Chamberlain. Mike House and Rick E. Chamberlain.

Board member, Mert Thomson and his wife, Erlene, donated a flag for the Wood House. Believe it or not,it is guaranteed for ten years! Also, this duo, and their son, Chris, spent 4 1/2 hours doing the Spring cleaning of the Wood House yard. Mert said he wanted to help President John Niemeyer with the work. We thank them all for their interest and support of our society.

The following story was written in February 1867 and extracted from the *Southern Oregon Press* (sited from the *Waverly Magazine*).

We witnessed a very amusing scene on one of our suburban streets recently. A fashionable young lady, got up in the highest style of the milliner's art, and arrayed in all the glory of five-dollars-a-yard silk, a twenty dollar bonnet, and a three hundred shawl, was majestically sweeping along in the direction of the fairground, while just behind a small boy was leading a pet coon. A countryman in brown slouched hat and linsey-woolsey "warmus," came along followed by a "yallah" dog, whose nose was scared diagonally, transversely and latterly. with the scars of many a hotley-contested battle with members of the raccoon family. "Tige" no sooner saw the ring-tailed representative of his ancient enemy, than he made a frantic dive for him, accompanied by a furious bark. Cooney apprehending the situation at a glance, bolted incontinently, and sought a sanctuary beneath the ample circumference of the lady's crinoline. The young lady screamed, while the dog made rapid circles, snuffing the air, and evidently bewildered to know what had become of the coon. The situation of the young lady was critical and embarrassing. She was afraid to move for fear the coon would bite and the coon declined to leave his retreat until the dog retired. Finally the dog was stoned off, the boy dragged the coon from his hiding place, and the young lady went her way, with a lively consciousness of having experienced a new sensation. As for the coon, he was instantly killed. He had seen too much to live.

It's election time

Our annual meeting and election of board of officers will be held at the museum June 21, 2004, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited. Refreshments and "goodies" will be served. Please read the instructions on the ballot to make sure your vote counts. We will be electing three candidates for a three-year term. If you need more information or assistance, call 826-4166 or e-mail the historical society at: museum@cyberpc.com.

Out-going board members include: John Niemeyer, Mert Thomson and Larry Cooper.

For Information, or correspondence contact Barbara Hegne editor, publisher & curator since 1990. Send letters, comments & suggestions to: P. O. Box 201, Eagle Point Or. 97524

The Eagle Point Historical Society Board meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7 PM. The public is invited.

We are located in the Historic District of Eagle Point, Oregon, between the Old Antelope Covered Bridge and the Butte Creek Mill on North Royal.

ADMISSION FREE

Hours

Open: Tues., Wed., Fri., 12 to 4PM
Thurs., 10 AM to 4PM and some Saturdays.
We will open at other times with sufficient notice. Call 826-4166

Membership:
Teens $5.00
Single $7.50
Husband & Wife $12.50
Business $10
Lifetime $100

Board Members

John Niemeyer	President
Rebecca Geear	Vice President
Shelly Tauriainen	Treasurer
Sharon Barker	Secretary
Dale Diebold	Board
Larry Cooper	Board
Mert Thomson	Board
Mary Anne Miller	Alternate

Eagle Point Historical Society
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True Historical Stories

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